

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
REGULAR WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018  
6:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Yeargin called the meeting to order at 6:15p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late), Councilmember Charl Jones, Councilmember Hope Love, Councilmember Lamar Maxwell, Councilmember Shireka McCarthy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gloria Sistrunk, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, Financial Advisor, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Diamond Plater, Council Clerk, Jeannelle B. Wallace, City Administrator

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Council President Reveral Yeargin

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

It was motioned by Councilmember Maxwell and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the agenda.

**2. PRESENTATIONS:**

**2.1. State and Local Tax Deduction Update**

- Ms. Plater stated that on Friday, January 12, 2018 she and Mr. Ashton attending the State and Local Tax Deduction meeting with the Governor Hogan, Congressman Hoyer and Congressman Brown. The average middle-class income is \$59,000 and \$1,191 per week added to their income. The homeowners are losing tax deductions and lose of insurance. 10,000 maximum state deductions on local taxes.
- Mr. Ashton stated that he will assist the Mayor for the State of City to prepare a policy response. They are recommending renting versus buying due to the tax limitation. The letter was signed by the Federal Senators and Congressman to request Governor Hogan to provide them with the response to the changes prepared for 2019 taxes. The tax bill put a cap on the local tax

of \$10,000. The cap on is Real Estate, Local, State and sales taxes. They are limiting which tax you can deduct on your taxes. The double taxation is due to removal of deductibility on the federal, state and local taxes in the year of 2018 for filing in 2019. The favor of renting is due to the limit of tax deductions and the impact of assessed values on the homes. The interest on your mortgage can be claimed if you purchased the house before December 15, 2017. The limit on interest of properties of \$700,000. You can no longer claim the interest on the home equity loans in 2018. The state will receive more revenue and the question was how was the governor going to re-arrange the revenue to weather the storm in the state of Maryland.

- They stated that 46% of tax payers itemized on their taxes, but the question is how will this impact the State. Maryland ranks 35th in the high state tax brackets. Maryland should piggy back off New York on the legislation to allow the payroll taxes to be applied to the corporation, but the employers cannot claim more than \$10,000.
- The recommendation is for the Governor to change the law legislatively. The impact on the Local Government can be a loss to the police and emergency services such as fire department.
- Councilmember Jones inquired if the city would need to go to the residents to raise the taxes to ensure that we can still provide the police and fire services? Mr. Ashton stated that this could be a possibility depending on how the state will divide the revenues.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the state will have more revenue coming due to the changes. The personal allowance has increased to \$4,000 per dependent that will be lost to the state. The standard has been doubled from previous year and only the singles will get more on the write-off. The individual tax cuts are on the books until 2025 and the corporation tax cut is permanent. They rolled back the limits to 1.5% to avoid the parliamentary procedures from the Democrats. The LLC's will be able to deduct 20% off their revenues by pass through corporations.
- The limitation on the personal exemptions, state and local taxes, moving expenses limited to military, will no longer be able to claim uniforms and the \$10,000 maximum deduction for the federal that cannot be claimed on the state. They are thinking about eliminating Community Development Block Grant. They are not capping your charitable contribution.
- The affordable care act penalty phase was eliminated if you do not have a certain coverage.

- Mr. Ashton stated that the City of Seat Pleasant should host a session on the tax bill changes for 2018. The impact for the city is advance purchase of bonds.
- The City Council requested for Mr. Ashton and Ms. Plater to keep their eyes and ears open for the deductions that will benefit the residents.

### **3. REPORTS:**

- **3.1.** Mayor Grant stated that he did not have report for the Regular Work Session Meeting.
- **3.1.** Mrs. Wallace stated that the administration department handled several personnel issues. All business taxes have been paid for the city. The forensic audit for the Verizon has been compiled for review.
- The Metro City proposal for Addison Rd and East of Rollins Avenue. The property development is zoned as residential for seniors, townhouses and condo's mixed use with retail on the street level. Retail and parking garages for patron usage while they shop. The City is now part of the record for notification from the planning office where the application was accepted back in April 2017.
- The Finance office has submitted several documents for your review.
- Councilmember Maxwell inquired if some of the information is censored from the departmental reports for the departments. Mrs. Wallace stated that the information may not be available at the time the reports are produced.
- It has been requested for the departmental reports to be uniformed with man hours and budget revenue for each department.
- **3.3. City Council Committee Reports**
- Government Affairs & Technology Committee-Councilmember Porter
- Councilmember Porter stated that the committee to review the Council Handbook and for the City Clerk to contact MML for research on other municipalities for a Handbook and the County.

### **4. LEGISLATION**

**4.1.** Charter Amendment Resolution CA-18-01 City Clerk was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Tuesday, January 16, 2018. It was motioned by Councilmember Maxwell and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve Charter Amendment Resolution CA-18-01. The motion carried.

FOR: Jones, Love, Maxwell, Porter, Sistrunk and Yeargin

AGAINST: McCarthy

ABSTAIN: None

**4.2.** Ordinance O-18-05 Amendment of Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget for NPAL Grant was introduced and read by the City Clerk on Tuesday, January 16, 2018.

## **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**5.1.** None

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **6.1. Approval of Council Clerk Revised Job Description**

- The City Clerk read the revised Job Description for the record. It was motioned by Councilmember Maxwell and seconded by Councilmember Love to approve the Council Clerk Description. The motion carried and was unanimously approved by the City Council.

### **6.2. Approval of City Clerk Revised Job Description**

- The City Clerk read the revised Job Description for the record and noted a few discrepancies in the job description.
- The City Council requested for the City Administrator to review and discuss the changes with Human Resources Director for corrections.


## **7 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**7.1. State of the City Address, Monday, January 29, 2018, Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD from 6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.**

**7.2. Regular Work Session, Monday, February 5, 2018, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 6:00p.m.**

**ADJOURN**-The meeting was adjourned at 8:01p.m.

Submitted by,

  
Dashaun N. Lanham, CMC  
City Clerk